CC Docket No. 94-102 – January 2004 E911 Interim Report

Filed by: Chama Wireless, L.L.C.

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Date: January 15, 2004

To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

By Electronic Submission:

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TIER III CARRIER INTERIM REPORT AS OF JANUARY, 2004 CC Docket No. 94-102

Chama Wireless, L.L.C. ("Chama") hereby submits its E911 Interim Report, pursuant to Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Phase II Compliance Deadlines for Non-Nationwide CMRS Carriers, CC Docket No. 94-102, FCC 02-210, released July 26, 2002 (Non-Nationwide Carrier E911 Order), Public Notice, DA 03-2113, released June 30, 2003, and Order to Stay, FCC 03-241, released October 10, 2003.

Carrier Identifying Information:

Carrier Name: Chama Wireless, L.L.C. – FRN 0007-2672-14

E911 Compliance Officer: John D. Champagne

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E911 Implementation Information:

Chama is operating as a "carriers' carrier", providing only wholesale service to other carriers. Thus, Chama has no subscribers and will not have any subscribers. Based on this premise, Chama hereby reports as follows:

□ Chama still has not received any Phase I or Phase II E911 requests from PSAPs. Chama has installed all of the equipment and software necessary to meet any Phase I request from a PSAP. Additionally, Chama has retained the services of Intrado, Inc., as a consultant to assist it in contacting and working with any PSAP in its market that may request Phase I E911. Intrado is one of the most respected names in the E911 industry. Most of its personnel have over twenty years of experience working for PSAPs or in the PSAP field.

Chama is dependent on a landline between the switch and the requesting PSAP for Phase I deployment, and will have to work with the local exchange carrier ("LEC") to have a landline installed when the time comes. Chama's system operates in rural areas, and it can take a LEC as long as 12 or even 18 months to install a new landline in a rural area. Thus, there is the substantial possibility that a PSAP's request would remain outstanding longer than six months while Chama awaits the installation of a landline connection to the PSAP. Notably, because Chama has no subscribers, Chama does not have the means to fund any Phase I implementation and recurring costs via pass-throughs to subscribers.

□ Chama elected a handset-based solution. Chama is using analog and TDMA technology, and is considering migration to GSM technology.

Chama has installed all of the necessary switch hardware and software for Phase I E911 deployment. Chama still anticipates a significant problem with its Phase II E911 deployment. There is currently no Phase II-compliant handset-based solution available for either TDMA or GSM, and it appears that one will not become available any time in the near future. Moreover, Chama remains unable to switch to a network-based solution, because it is technically impossible. The only Phase II-compliant network-based solutions available are based on either triangulation techniques, which can work only when the network is receiving location information on the involved mobile unit from three different cell sites, or angle of arrival techniques ("AOA"), which can work only when the network is receiving location information from at least two different cell sites.
Chama operates two cellular systems located only in remote, rural areas, and the cell sites in each market are spread far apart. In one of Chama's markets, there are three cell sites, but there is only a tiny overlap between two of the cells, and no overlap among all three cells. Thus, only a very small portion of the service area is susceptible to AOA techniques only; the bulk of the service area is not susceptible to AOA techniques. Therefore, even if Chama were to implement Phase II E911 in this market, it would never be able to reach the required 95% accuracy level on a system-wide basis, as prescribed by §20.18 of the Commission's rules. Chama's other market contains stand-alone cells only and is therefore not susceptible to triangulation or AOA techniques. Thus, Chama could never employ a network-based solution in either of these markets.
Chama obtained ALI-capable handsets from Airbiquity prior to the October 1, 2002 deadline, such that they were available if requested. Chama did not encounter any problems in obtaining or negotiating agreements to obtain these ALI-capable handsets. Chama added no new subscribers after October 1, 2002. As previously discussed, Chama is now operating entirely as a "carriers' carrier". Chama currently has no subscribers, but, rather, serves only the customers of other carriers. Chama will not have any future subscribers.
Chama does not anticipate that full Phase II service will ever be available in its network, for the reasons discussed above pertaining to the issues with the permanent absence of any available Phase II TDMA handsets and the impossibility of employing a network-based solution, both of which are beyond Chama's control. Even if Chama were to migrate to GSM technology, there is currently no GSM handset-based technology available, and vendor predictions of future development are unreliable. Chama has a request pending with the Commission for a permanent waiver of the Phase II requirements.
With regard to meeting the ultimate implementation date of December 31, 2005, see above.